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Cont. semiconductor element is fixed so as to shield at least part of said semiconductor element from non-desired light;

wherein said light shielding member further comprises a polarizing plate secured to said outer surface of said first substrate.

Cancel Claims 2, 5-8, 10, 11, and 14-24 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein.

REMARKS

Claims 1-24 are now pending in the application.

Claims 5-7, 10, 11, 15-18, and 20-24 are withdrawn from consideration, claims 1-4, 8, 9, 12-14, and 19 are rejected, and claims 1-4 are objected to.

By this Amendment, Claims 1, 3, 4, 9, and 12 are amended and Claims 2, 5-8, 10, 11, and 14-24 are cancelled. Support for these amendments can be found throughout the specification, claims, and drawings, as originally filed.

In view of the preceding amendments and of the following remarks, reconsideration of the outstanding rejections is respectfully requested.

ELECTION/RESTRICTION

In the most recent Office Action, the Examiner withdrew claims 5-7, 10, 11, 15-18, and 20-24 from consideration as being drawn to a non-elected species. The Examiner also treated Applicant's provisional election as being without traverse. Redonsideration is requested.

The present application is a § 371 of the PCT application number PCT/JP97/02543. Therefore, only unity of invention is required. Claims 5 through 7 are dependent on claim 1. As such, unity of invention is assured with respect to claims 1 and 5-7. Further, the subject matter of claim 10 is not such a departure from that of the remaining claims as to depart from having unity of invention. Claims 15-18 and 20-24 are dependent on claim 12. As such, the subject matter thereof is unified with the subject matter of claim 12.

Notwithstanding the unity of invention in all claims 1-24, Applicant has cancelled Claims 5-7, 10, 11, 15-18, and 20-24.

PRIORITY

The Examiner states that Applicant's priority claim to JP 8-207402 of August 6, 1996 is improper. Applicant disagrees. Since the present application is a § 371 of International Application PCT/JP97/02543 designating the United States, its effective filing date is July 23, 1997. This is within twelve months of the filing date of JP 8-207402. As such, priority based on JP 8-207402 under § 119 is proper. A certified copy will be provided in due course.

The Examiner also notes that the Applicant claims priority from International PCT application JP97/02543. This is incorrect. Applicant does not claim § 119 priority from PCT/JP97/02543, but rather, the present application is a § 371 national phase application of PCT/JP97/02543. As such, no certified copy of the international application is required under the rules.

SPECIFICATION

The Examiner required a new title clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed. By this Amendment, the application title has been amended to read "Liquid Crystal Display Device with a Light-Shielding Member". Favorable consideration of this new title is respectfully requested.

CLAIM OBJECTIONS

Claim 1 stands objected to for reciting that the semiconductor element is directly jointed to at least one of the substrates. This objection is respectfully traversed. Applicant submits that the semiconductor element is directly jointed to the substrate by way of the anisotropic conductive film. Notwithstanding, Applicant elected to amend claim 1 to delete the term "directly". Accordingly, reconsideration and withdraw of this objection are respectfully requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 4 and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Regarding claim 4, Applicant amended the claim to expressly recite that which was implicitly recited therein as originally filed. That is, the reference to "substrate" which impliedly referred to the "one of said substrates" in a prior line of the claim is amended to read "said one of said substrates". Accordingly, reconsideration and withdraw of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Regarding claim 8, the Examiner stated that it is unclear where the polarizing plate is arranged in reference to the other elements of the device. Although Applicant does not necessarily agree, claim 8 is amended to remove all alleged ambiguity. That is, the polarizing plate is arranged on "the same" surface of one of said substrates "as the second light-shielding member". Applicant wishes to note that this Amendment does not narrow claim 8 inasmuch as claim 8 as originally filed called for the second light-shielding member to be constituted by a portion of the polarizing plate. As such, the claim as originally filed called for the polarizing plate and second light-shielding member to be on the same surface of one of the substrates. Reconsideration and withdraw of this rejection are respectfully requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-4 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kawaguchi et al., (EP 0402 106 A2). Claims 12-14 and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Hirai et al (EP 0501 413 A2). These rejections are respectfully traversed. Notwithstanding, Applicant elected to amend independent claims 1 and 12. It should be noted that the amendments of claims 1 and 12 are not narrowing since amended claim 1 is merely a rewritten version of prior pending claim 8. Further, amended claim 12 is merely a rewritten version of prior pending claim 14.

Independent claims 1 and 12 call for the light-shielding member to comprise a portion of the polarizing plate. EP 0402 106 A2 teaches a light-shielding member 38. The light-shielding member 38 is made of a foil or a sheet which can shield light and is electrically conductive. For example, aluminum or copper foil can be used. As can be

appreciated, the light-shielding member 38 is not a portion of a polarizing plate. Furthermore, although the light-shielding tape 39 can be made of the same material as the light-shielding member 38 or from a different material, there is no teaching or suggestion that the light-shielding tape 39 can be a portion of a polarizing plate as is claimed.

Regarding 0501413 A2, the polarizing plate 37 is illustrated in Fig. 3 as including an extended portion 37A which is glued to the undersurface of a printed circuit board 1. The extended portion 37A links together the display panel 3 and the printed circuit board 1. As such, external force such as vibration and shock applied to the printed circuit board 1 is dispersedly absorbed by the whole of the printed circuit board 1 and the liquid crystal panel 3 which are linked together. However, the polarizing plate 37 (including the extended portion 37A) is nowhere described as functioning as a light-shielding member. Applicant also submits that this is not an inherent feature of such a polarizing plate. Further, as shown in Fig. 3, the extended portion 37A does not extend along the entire undersurface of the printed circuit board 1. Nor does the extended portion 37A extend entirely under the integrated circuit device 21. As such, even if it can be assumed arguendo that the polarizing plate 37 has some inherent light-shielding properties, the extended portion 37A does not serve this purpose since it is not appropriately arranged relative to the printed circuit board 1 or the integrated circuit device 21. As such, the '413 reference is completely silent with respect to the claimed light-shielding member which comprises a portion of a polarizing plate. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdraw of these rejections are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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ATTACHMENT FOR SPECIFICATION AMENDMENTS

The following is a marked up version of each replacement paragraph and/or section of the specification in which underlines indicates insertions and brackets indicate deletions.

[Page 1, lines 1 and 2] In the Title, please delete [LIQUID CRYSTAL DISPLAY DEVICE AND ELECTRONIC DEVICE USING THE SAME] and substitute A LIQUID CRYSTAL DISPLAY DEVICE WITH A LIGHT-SHIELDING PORTION therefor.

ATTACHMENT FOR CLAIM AMENDMENTS

The following is a marked up version of each amended claim in which underlines indicates insertions and brackets indicate deletions.

1. (Amended) A liquid-crystal display device having a pair of substrates which are opposite to each other through a liquid crystal, and a semiconductor element which is [directly] joined to at least one of said substrates,

characterized in that a ^{surface that is opposite to} ~~portion other than~~ a surface, which is joined to one of said substrates, of the surfaces of said semiconductor element is covered with a light-shielding member portion;

a second light-shielding member for shielding light being toward said
semiconductor element is arranged on a surface, opposite to the surface, to which said
semiconductor element is joined, of the surfaces of one of said substrates; and

a polarizing plate is arranged on the same surface of one of said substrates as
the second light-shielding member, and said second light-shielding member is
constituted by a portion of the polarizing plate located outside an effective display region
of said polarizing plate.

3. (AMENDED) A liquid-crystal display device according to claim [2] 1,

characterized in that a plurality of pixels having no active element are arranged between said pair of substrates.

4. (AMENDED) A liquid-crystal display device according to any one of claims 1 to 3,

characterized in that said semiconductor element is joined to ^{said} one of said substrates such that an active surface of said semiconductor element faces said [substrate] one of said substrates.

9. (TWICE AMENDED) A liquid-crystal display device according to Claim [2]1,

characterized in that said second light-shielding member comprises a planar sheet member having light-shielding properties adhered to a surface of ^{said} one of said substrates.

12. (AMENDED) A liquid crystal display device comprising:

a first substrate having inner and outer surfaces;

a second substrate having inner and outer surfaces;

a liquid crystal disposed between said inner surfaces of said first and second substrates;

¹²
a semiconductor element having a first surface fixed to a portion of said inner surface of said first substrate; and

^{6a} a light shielding member secured to ^{the outer surface of} one of said first and second substrates at a location spaced apart from said portion of said inner surface where said semiconductor element is fixed so as to shield at least part of said semiconductor element from non-desired light;

^{6a} ⁺ ⁶
wherein said light shielding member further comprises a polarizing plate secured to said outer surface of said first substrate.